



Application No. 09/334,649
Attorney Docket No. 103232-09003

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 17, 22 31 as follows:

1. (Amended) An orthotic device comprising:

an orthosis body adapted to be wrapped around [the] a torso of a wearer of the device, the orthosis body having at least two segments in juxtaposed relationship;

means provided at free end portions of said at least two segments to releasably secure said free end portions to one another;

at least two cables, each cable operatively connected to said at least two segments;

at least two sets of pulleys mounted on said at least two segments with each cable operatively connected to said at least two segments running through a pulley on each of said at least two segments in alteration, shortening of each cable pulling said at least two segments together and tightening the orthotic device with the aid of a mechanical advantage dependent upon the number of pulleys mounted on each said at least two segments; and

at least two handle elements connected to respective ones of said at least two cables,

wherein after the means releasably secures said free end portions of the at least two segments to one another, the wearer pulls each of said handle elements a

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selected distance thereby pulling said at least two cables causing said orthosis body to tighten about the wearer's torso to a level of tightening desired by the wearer, said at least two handle elements operative for releasable fastening on either one of said releasably secured segments to retain said orthosis body at the desired level of tightening.

Claim 17, line 1, change "8" to --1--.

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21 22. (Amended) A thoracic lumbar sacral orthosis comprising:
a rigid front piece;
a sternal notch piece, movably and adjustably secured to said rigid front piece;
a rigid rear piece, removably and adjustably secured to said rigid front piece;
and
a body brace comprising:
a brace body adapted to be wrapped around [the] a torso of a patient, said front piece and said rear piece, said brace body comprising at least two brace body segments;
means provided at free end portions of said at least two brace body segments for detachably securing the two free end portions together around the patient's torso;

at least one cable operatively connected to said at least two brace body segments; [and]

at least one set of pulleys mounted on each of said at least two brace segments with the cable running through a pulley on each segment in alteration, shortening of the cable pulling the at least two brace body segments together and tightening the body brace with the aid of a mechanical advantage dependent upon the number of pulleys mounted on each of said at least two brace body segments; and

at least one handle element connected to said at least one cable,

wherein after said means detachably secure said two free end portions of said at least two brace body segments together, the patient pulls each of said at least one handle element a selected distance thereby pulling said at least one cable causing said body brace to tighten about the patient's torso to a level of tightening desired by the patient, said at least one handle element operative for releasable fastening on either one of said at least two detachably secured brace body segments to retain said body brace at the desired level of tightening.

Claim 31, line 1, change "30" to --22--.

Please add claims 36-44 as follows:

-- 36.34 An orthotic device, comprising:

an orthosis body having two individual segments sized to wrap substantially around a torso of a wearer, each one of the two individual segments

having a free end portion for positioning in front of the wearer's torso with respective ones of the free end portions adapted for releasable connection with one another and a rear portion for positioning in back of the wearer's torso;

at least one set of pulleys, each set of pulleys including two banks of pulleys with a respective one of the two banks of pulleys mounted to a respective rear portion of the orthosis body;

at least one cable for each set of pulleys, the at least one cable operatively connected to and between the two banks of pulleys and having a pair of cable free end portions and an intermediate cable portion interconnecting the pair of cable free end portions and running through at least one pulley on each of the two banks of pulleys in alteration; and

at least one handle element connected to the at least one cable at the pair of cable free end portions wherein, after the free end portions of the individual segments are releasably connected together, the wearer pulls the handle element a selected distance thereby pulling the at least one cable causing the rear portions of the orthosis body to move toward each other to tighten the orthotic device about the wearer's torso to a level of tightening desired by the wearer, the at least one handle element operative for releasable fastening on either one of the releasably connected individual segments to retain the orthotic device at the desired level of tightening.

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35 37. An orthotic device according to claim *36*, wherein the at least one handle element includes one of a hook portion of hook-and-loop fabric and loop portion of hook-and-loop fabric.

36 38. An orthotic device according to claim *37*, wherein the at least one handle element includes a bail-shaped member connected at an end of the handle element opposite the pair of cable free end portions.

37 39. An orthotic device according to claim *37*, wherein each one of the two individual segments includes a strip of hook-and-loop fabric extending from the free end portion towards the rear portion such that, if the at least one handle element includes the hook portion, the strip is fabricated from the loop portion and, if the at least one handle element includes the loop portion, the strip is fabricated from the hook portion.
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38 40. An orthotic device according to claim *36*, wherein at least one of the banks of pulleys is detachably connected to the individual segment.

39 41. An orthotic device according to claim *36*, wherein the free end portions of the individual segments are detachably connected together by hook-and-loop fabric.

40 42. An orthotic device according to claim *36*, wherein pulling the at least one cable results in a mechanical advantage dependent upon a number of pulleys mounted in each of the banks of pulleys.

41 43. An orthotic device, comprising:

an orthosis body adapted to be wrapped around the torso of a wearer of the device, the orthosis body having at least two segments in juxtaposed relationship; means provided at free end portions of said at least two segments to releasably secure said free end portions to one another;

at least two cables, each cable operatively connected to said at least two segments; and

at least two sets of pulleys mounted on said at least two segments with each cable operatively connected to said at least two segments running through a pulley on each of said at least two segments in alteration, shortening of each cable pulling said at least two segments together and tightening the orthotic device with the aid of a mechanical advantage dependent upon the number of pulleys mounted on each of said at least two segments, each set of pulleys comprising two banks of pulleys and each bank of pulleys of each set of pulleys being detachably mounted on a juxtaposed edge of an adjacent segment.

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44. A thoracic lumbar sacral orthosis, comprising:
a rigid front piece;
a sternal rear piece, removably and adjustably secured to said rigid front piece; and

a body brace comprising:

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